



MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 580 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E6 - (403) 502-8071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALARM BYLAW ENFORCEMENT STARTS JULY 1

Medicine Hat – Effective July 1, the City of Medicine Hat Alarm Systems Bylaw will be enforced.

Enforcement of the bylaw includes fees for repeat false alarms, with the goal being a reduction in the number of false alarms that Fire and Police respond to each year.

"Fewer false alarms reduce the risk to businesses, residents and emergency personnel by lessening the number of responding emergency vehicles on the road and making personnel more available for emergency calls," says Inspector Murray Morton, Medicine Hat Police Service.

The number of false alarms in Medicine Hat has increased by over 50 per cent in the past five years. The Police Service responded to approximately 2,500 false alarms in 2005 and the Fire Service was dispatched to over 300 false alarm incidents.

Under the Bylaw, "No person shall render operable, maintain, or monitor an alarm system that has not been registered as provided for by this Bylaw."

Existing alarm systems, currently not registered, may be registered without penalty until July 1, 2007. Newly installed systems must be registered prior to being activated. Registration forms are available on the Medicine Hat Police Service website www.medicinehatpolice.com and the City's website www.medicinehat.ca. Forms can also be picked up at the Medicine Hat Police Service or any of the three Fire Stations.

The Police Service may charge the following fees for responding to a False Alarm:

- 1 – 2 alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - No fee
- 3 – 5 alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - \$75
- More than five alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - \$100

The Fire Service may charge the following fees for responding to a False Alarm:

- 1 – 2 alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - No fee
- 3 – 5 alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - \$250
- More than 5 alarms at the same site within the same calendar year - \$500

The Alarm Systems Bylaw is available on the City's website www.medicinehat.ca or from the City Clerk department in City Hall.

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For further information, please contact:

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